

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

USDEL SALT TWO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

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DISTO/ SALT

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

GENEVA FOR KRAUS ALSO

VIENNA FOR MBFR DELEGATION

MPT HELSINKI FOR SAVAGE

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INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY PAPERS HAVE FEATURED WATERGATE AND SKYLAB. SATURDAY LATIMES REPORTED SALT SESSION INSIDE; MONDAY PAPERS HAD KREMLIN OPTIMISTIC ON VIENNA TALKS, ALSO HEATH ENCOURAGES US BID FOR BETTER TIES WITH MARKET.

1 A. TUESDAY PAPERS REPORTED HUNGARY STILL SNAGGING ARMS TALKS. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES REPORTS ON SALT, ALSO SOVIETS ARE TOLD SECURITY TALKS TIED TO TROOP CUT; PLUS BUDGET SQUEEZE TROUBLES NATO.

2. SALT. SATURDAY LATIMES HAD GENEVA UPI REPORTING NEGOTIATORS MET FRIDAY AFTER CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN JOHNSON KISSINGER IN LONDON THURSDAY, ADDING SALT FORMED PART OF KISSINGER'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION.

2 A. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES GENEVA SPECIAL REPORTS SALT WAS CONTINUED TUESDAY WHEN CHIEF NEGOTIATORS MET FOR 80 MINUTES

BUT JOHNSON SEMYONOV MAINTAINED THE PRESS BLACKOUT THAT THE TWO SIDES IMPOSED LAST NOVEMBER BUT IN WASHINGTON KISSINGER SAID CURRENT SALT PHASE IS MORE COMPLEX THAN SALT ONE.

3. MBFR. MONDAY WASHPOST HAD MOSCOW AP REPORTING SOVIET UNION INDICATED THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE AT VIENNA, AP SAYING A PRAVDA COMMUNIQUE ON BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO POLAND SAID THAT SOVIET UNION AND ONE OF ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES PUBLICLY AGREED FOR FIRST TIME ON QUOTE GREAT IMPORTANCE UNQUOTE OF THE MUTUAL FORCE CUTS AND THIS ATTITUDE WAS REPEATED BY MARSHAL YAKUBOVSKY IN RECENT INTERVIEW ON ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW PACT. BALTSUN HAD MUCH LONGER VERSION, QUOTING YAKUBOVSKY AND CITING ALSO UNPUBLISHED SPEECH OF BREZHNEV TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

3 A. MONDAY WASHSTAR HAD VIENNA AP REPORTING EAST- WEST TALKS RESUMED TODAY WITH RUSSIANS FOR FIRST TIME PUBLICLY TERMING THEM OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. AP SAID 19 NATIONS ARE STILL MONTHS AWAY AT LEAST FROM GETTING DOWN TO TALKING UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOUT HOW MANY OF WHICH NATION'S TROOPS MIGHT BE PULLED BACK. REFERRING TO 14 WEEKS OF WRANGLING OVER HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION, AP REPORTED US FINALLY FORCED BRITAIN AND OTHER ALLIES TO YIELD TO SOVIET DEMAND RE HUNGARY AND 19 NATIONS NOW MOVE ON TO AGENDA, RULES OF PROCEDURE, AND SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF NEUTRAL NATIONS. STORY ALSO REFERRED TO PRAVDA AND YAKUBOVSKY.

3 B. TUESDAY NYTIMES HAD VIENNA AP REPORTING TALKS OPENED WITH A NINE- MINUTE MEETING TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS, STORY ALSO REFERRING TO PRAVDA AND YAKUBOVSKY.

3 C. TUESDAY WASHPOST GOSHKO VIENNA SAID BRIEF OPENING MEETING WAS OVERSHADOWED BY CONTINUING CONTROVERSY OVER ROLE OF HUNGARY, BUT IT LED DIPLOMATS FROM BOTH SIDES TO PREDICT MBFR MEETING THIS FALL, ADDING BOTH SIDES HOPE TO CONCLUDE PREPARATORY PHASE BY EARLY JUNE. BALTSUN OISHI STRESSED HUNGARY DECISION WAS A MAJOR WESTERN CONCESSION, ADDING NATO SPOKESMAN VAN UFFORD SAID ITALY' S OBSERVER STATUS WASN' T OPEN TO QUESTION.

3 D. TUESDAY LATIMES DON COOK VIENNA ALSO STRESSED HUNGARIAN QUESTION IS FAR FROM RESOLVED, ADDING THAT MON- DAY MEETING WAS LIMITED BY PREARRANGEMENT TO READING OF A SERIES OF CAREFULLY WORDED STATEMENTS WORKED OUT IN A SERIES OF 70 BEHIND- SCENES MEETINGS. WASHSTAR ALSO HAD VIENNA UPI STRESSING EAST WEST DISAGREED AGAIN ON STATUS OF HUNGARY, A SNAG THAT THREATENED TO FURTHER DELAY

TALKS ON TROOPS AND ARMS REDUCTION IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

3 E. TUESDAY NYTIMES EDITORIAL ON FOG OVER TROOP TALKS SAW VIENNA PROSPECTS DIM, HELD CONCESSION ON HUNGARY HAS MADE MEANINGFUL, BALANCED TROOP WITHDRAWAL LESS LIKELY. ANOTHER CAUSE FOR PESSIMISM, SAID TIMES, IS SOVIET STAND AGAINST ANY SYSTEM FOR VERIFYING FORCE LEVELS. TIMES HELD METICULOUS NEGOTIATION IS IMPERATIVE FOR CONTINUED VIABILITY OF ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND IF SOVIETS ARE EAGER FOR CSCE THEY OUGHT TO BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE FOR BALANCED AND VERIFIABLE FORCE WITHDRAWALS.

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3 F. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES HAS VIENNA UPI STRESSING WEST TOLD SOVIET THERE MUST BE PROGRESS IN VIENNA TALKS IF SOVIET UNION WANTS FORWARD MOVEMENT IN HELSINKI ON CSCE, QUOTING AN ITALIAN STATEMENT, ALSO BELGIAN AND WEST GERMAN, WITH REMAINING NATIONS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK WEDNESDAY.

3 G. WASHPOST VIENNA SPECIAL REPORTS TEN PARTICIPANTS GOT THEIR VIEWS ON RECORD IN BRIEF STATEMENTS, SPECIAL SAYING ALL OF TUESDAY' S BRIEF SPEECHES BRUSHED OVER THE DIFFI- CULTIES AND DEALT WITH IMPORTANCE OF MUTUALLY AGREED UPON FORCE REDUCTIONS TO FURTHERING AN END TO COLD WAR, STORY ADDING IT WAS CLEAR TWO SIDES HAVEN' T AGREED ON WHAT TO CALL THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. COMMENT. TUESDAY WASHPOST ZORZA COLUMN SAID NIXON
COULD MAKE ANOTHER SATISFACTORY BARGAIN OVER SALT DURING
BREZHNEV VISIT IF HE IS ABLE TO MAINTAIN LINKAGE WEB OF
INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND US ECONOMIES, A
WEB, SAYS ZORZA, IN WHICH RUSSIANS, DELIGHTED BY CHANGES
WHICH HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
ARE NOW MORE THAN WILLING TO BE CAUGHT.

4 A. TWO MAJOR JOURNALS QUESTION FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS.
MAY 4 SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE SAYS IT MAY WELL BE ASKED
WHY THE FRENCH ARE NOT WILLING AT THIS LATE HOUR
IN ATOMIC AGE TO CONFINE THEIR TESTING UNDERGROUND.
MAY 14 WASHSTAR EDITORIAL NOTES AMERICAN POLICY HAS
CONTRIBUTED TO FRENCH COURSE, STARTING WITH REFUSAL TO
SHARE ATOMIC SECRETS AND CONTINUING WITH RESENTMENT
AGAINST AMERICAN DOMINANCE IN WESTERN AFFAIRS, AND MORE

RECENTLY AMERICAN- RUSSIAN DETENTE HAS INCREASED FEAR
THAT HOLES MIGHT DEVELOP IN NUCLEAR UMBRELLA, BUT
POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO FRANCE IN A DISAPPROVING WORLD GROWS
EVERY YEAR THE TESTS CONTINUE. RUSH

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